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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An external preparation for skin, comprising a compound represented by the following general formula (1) and/or salt thereof in a range of 0.035 to 2.0% by mass

$$R^{1}O$$
 $R^{2}O$
 $R^{2}O$
 $R^{3}O$
 $R^{3}O$
 R^{4}
 R^{8}
 R^{7}
 R^{8}
 R^{7}
 R^{8}
 R^{8}
 R^{8}
 R^{8}
 R^{8}
 R^{8}

wherein, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R⁷, R⁸, and R⁹ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an alkyloxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and 4-n-butyl resorcinol and/or a salt thereof in a range of 0.05 to 5% by mass.

- 2. (Original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (I) is one or two or more selected from 5,7-dihydroxy-3,6-dimethoxy-2-(5-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, 5,7-dihydroxy-3,6,8-trimethoxy-2-(3,4,5-trihydroxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, 3,5-diethoxy-6,7-dimethoxy-2-(5-ethoxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, and 5,6-dihydroxy-3,7-dimethoxy-2-(5-hydroxy-2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one.
- 3. (Previously presented) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein a source of the compound represented by the general formula (1) and/or salt thereof is an extract of a plant of the genus Achillea sp. of the family Compositae or the genus Centaurea sp. of the family Compositae.

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4. (Original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 3, wherein the plant of the genus Achillea sp. of the family Compositae is selected from Achillea ageratum, Achillea cartilaginea, Achillea clavenae, Achillea filipendula, Achillea millefolium, Achillea nana, Achillea ptarmica, and Achillea tomentosa, and the plant of the genus Centaurea sp. of the family Compositae is Centaurea cyanus.

5-9. (Cancelled)

- 10. (New) A method for whitening skin comprising applying the external preparation for skin according to claim 1 to the skin of an individual, whereby the skin of the individual is whitened.
- 11. (New) A method for lightening skin comprising applying the external preparation for skin according to claim 1 to the skin of an individual, whereby the skin of the individual is lightened.